WE ARE ALL THE HEROES OF OUR OWN STORIES...

KARTANITH.
CAPITAL CITY OF MIRROR.

THAT'S WHAT MY FATHER ALWAYS TOLD ME. MY FAMILY'S STORY BEGAN AFTER THE PRIMAL WAR AND THE UNTIMELY DEATH OF THE QUEEN AT THE HANDS OF THE VICIOUS OUTLAW D'CLO. MY FAMILY BECAME THE CARETAKERS OF THE DRACONUS THRONE AND DE FACTO LEADERS OF THE DRACONUS GUILD.

MY FATHER WAS A MASTER OF POLITICS AND SHREWD AT NAVIGATING THE GUILD AND ITS LARGER INTERACTIONS WITH THE TRIBES. HE WAS UNANIMOUSLY VOTED IN AS THE CARETAKER. BY ALL ACCOUNTS, THE ONLY DRACONUS WHO COULD UNITE THE GUILD AND THE TRIBES AND REBUILD THE POST-WAR WORLD OF MIRROR.

AFTER THE WAR A LAW WAS PASSED THAT ALL DRACONUS AND MEMBERS OF THE TRIBES WOULD NEVER AGAIN USE THEIR "PRIMAL" FORMS TO MAKE WAR OR SETTLE DISPUTES. WE HAD ENTERED A MORE CIVILIZED ERA. BATTLES WOULD BE SOLVED WITH DEBATES, LEGISLATION AND COMPROMISE.

WE LEFT OUR SMALL KINGDOM BEHIND AND MOVED TO KARTANITH, WITH HOPE THAT A NEW WORLD WOULD BE FORMED. A MIRROR WITHOUT WAR. FOR AS LONG AS I CAN REMEMBER, THE PALACE WAS OUR HOME...
...UNTIL THE QUEEN RETURNED.

# CHAPTER 4

WRITER/ARTIST/CREATOR
KARL ALTSTAETTER

COLORS
KOMIKAKI STUDIO
FEATURING KEVIN LIEW

LETTERS
TAYLOR ESPOSITO

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WHEN SHE ARRIVED NO ONE TOOK HER CLAIM TO THE THRONE SERIOUSLY. A FRINGE GROUP OF ZEALOTS BELIEVED THE QUEEN WAS REINCARNATED AND TAKING BACK THE THRONE WAS PART OF SOME LARGER, INDISCERNIBLE PROPHECY.

SLOWLY SHE CONVINCED THE HEADS OF THREE OF THE FOUR DRACONUS FAMILIES THAT THE THRONE WAS RIGHTFULLY HERS.

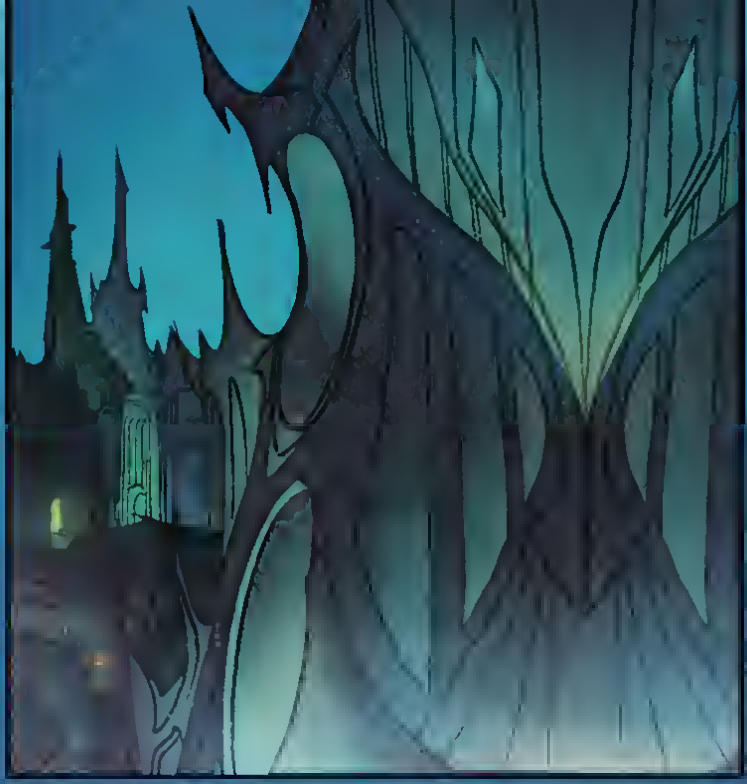
AS THE STORY GOES, MY FATHER SUMMONED HER TO THE PALACE AND DISMISSED HER CLAIM TO THE THRONE, BRANDING HER A FRAUD. DURING A HEATED EXCHANGE SHE TURNED PRIMAL AND TORE HIM TO PIECES.

THAT NIGHT SHE MADE HER WAY THROUGH THE PALACE KILLING MY MOTHER AND MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS.

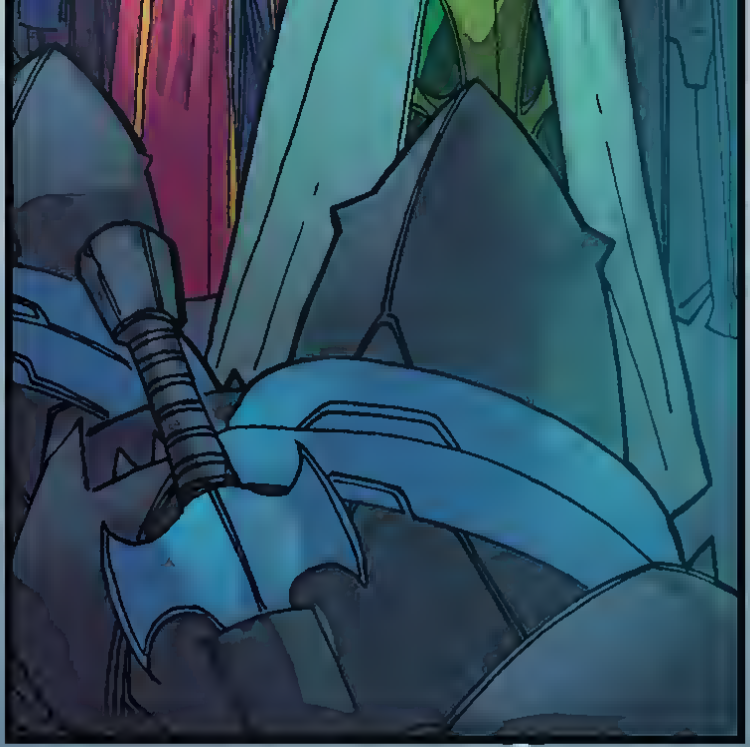
SHE SEIZED CONTROL OF THE GUILD AND POPULATED IT WITH "BELIEVERS".

MY HALF SISTER AND I ARE ALL THAT'S LEFT OF

OUR ONCE GREAT FAMILY

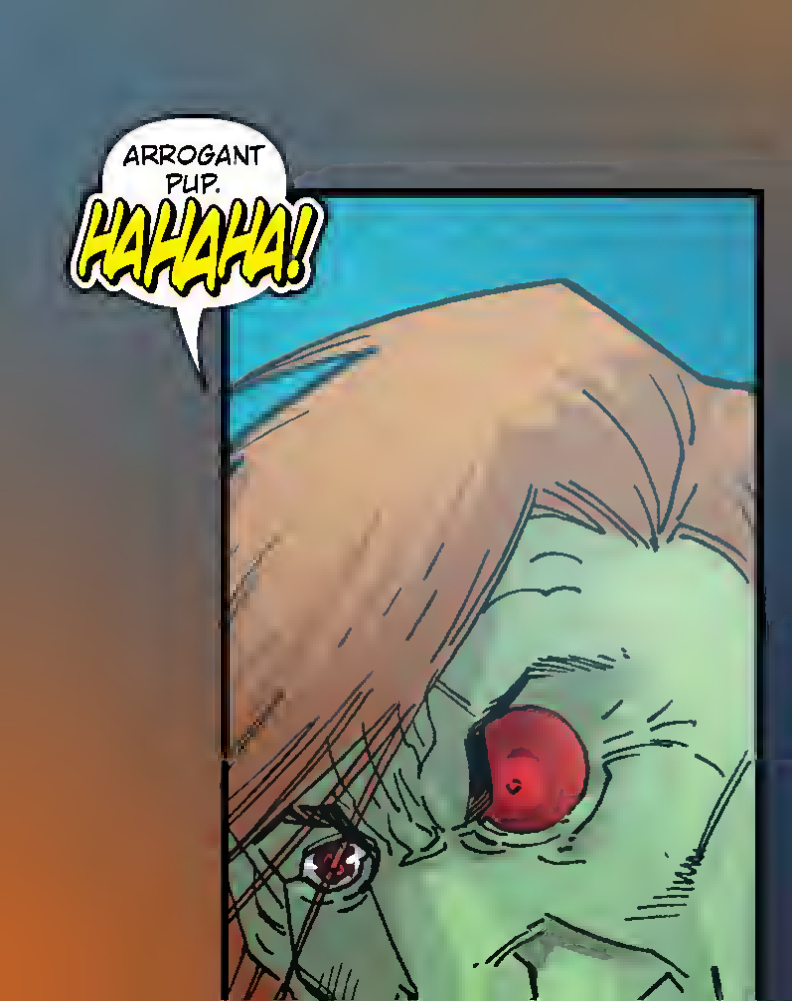


THAT'S MY STORY. LORD KOLIN, ONCE HEIR TO THE THRONE NOW ERRAND BOY FOR AN INSANE REINCARNATED, HOMICIDAL CREATURE. NOT ALL STORIES HAVE HAPPY ENDINGS.



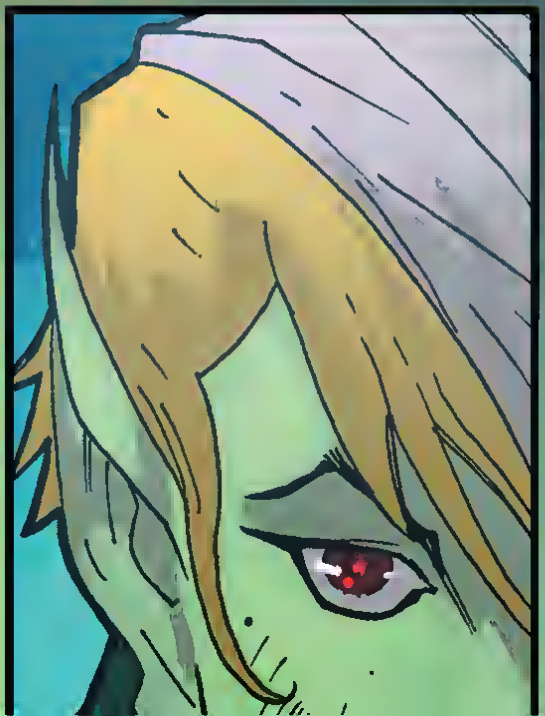
IF EVER THERE WAS A CREATURE THAT EMBODIED CHAOS AND EVIL IT WOULD BE KEEDD, THE QUEEN'S ATTACK DOG AND OFFICIAL DUMPER OF SHIT. THANKS TO A SPELL CAST BY THE QUEEN HE LIVES IN A STATE OF LIFE AND DEATH. HALF OF HIS SOUL TRAPPED HERE, AND THE OTHER HALF IN THE NEXT WORLD. NO WONDER HE'S SUCH A BASTARD.

I HAVE NEWS FOR THE QUEEN. I WOULD SPEAK TO HER DIRECTLY, I HAVE NO TIME FOR HER PETS.

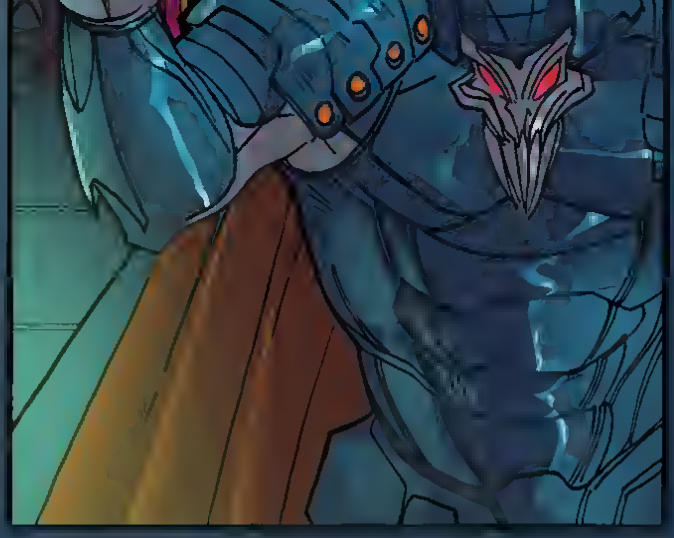

ARROGANT PUP.
HAHAHA!

IN THE MINUTE IT TAKES HIM TO SPEAK I DREAM OF 100 WAYS TO KILL HIM. EACH MORE CRUEL

THAN THE NEXT.

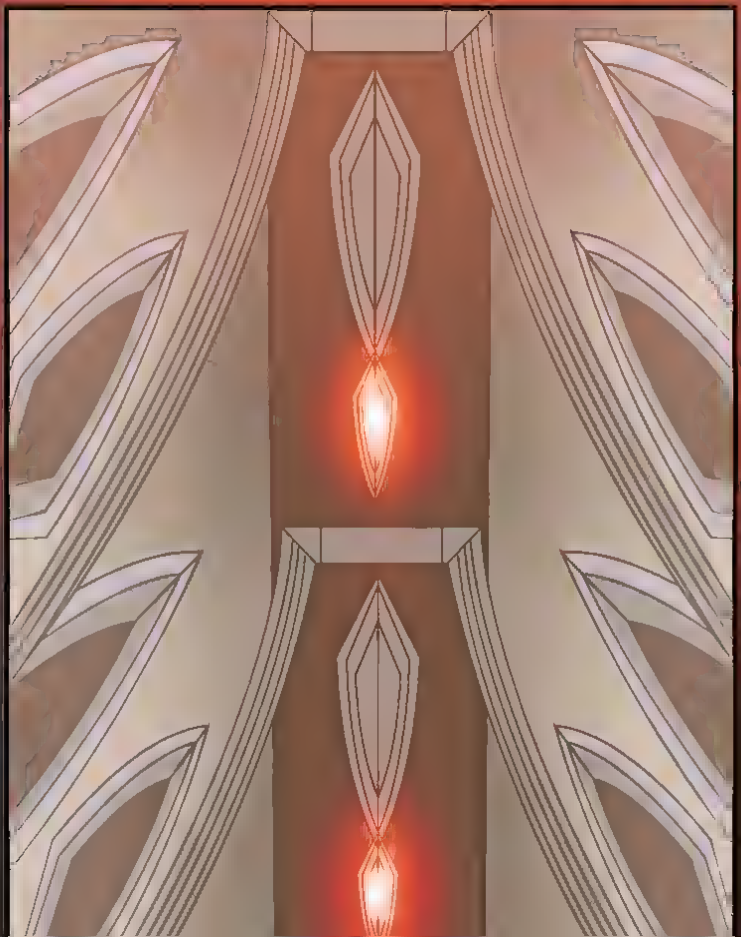


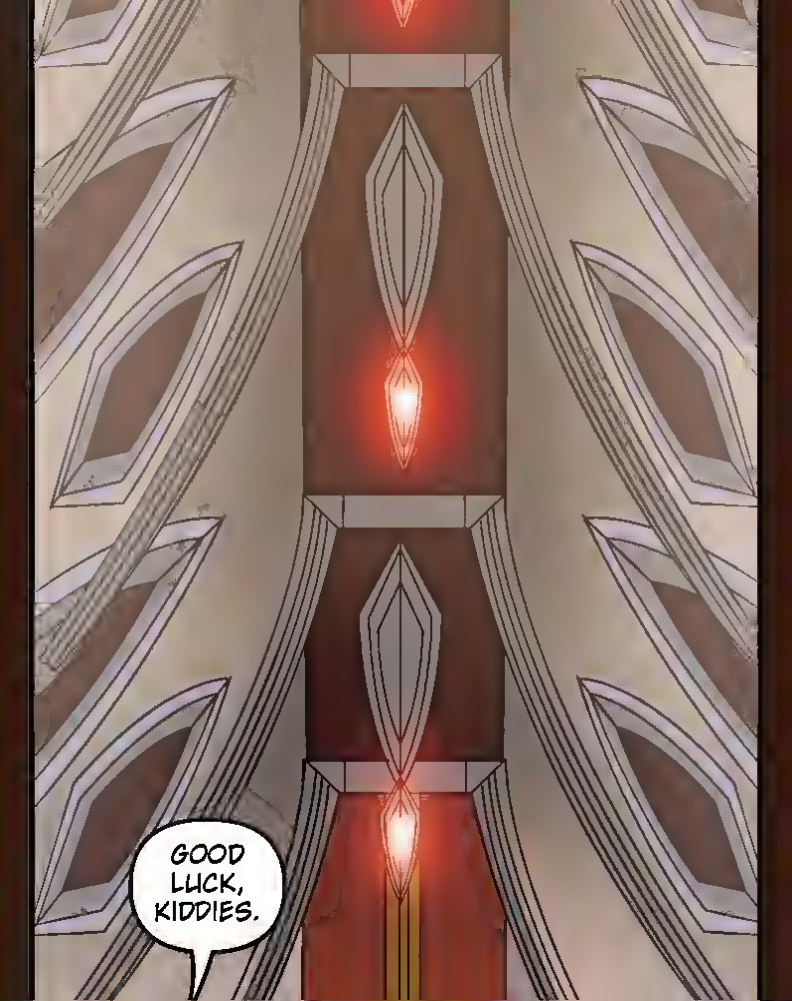
FOLLOW ME AND BRING YOUR SISTER. THE QUEEN WOULD LIKE TO SEE YOU BOTH.

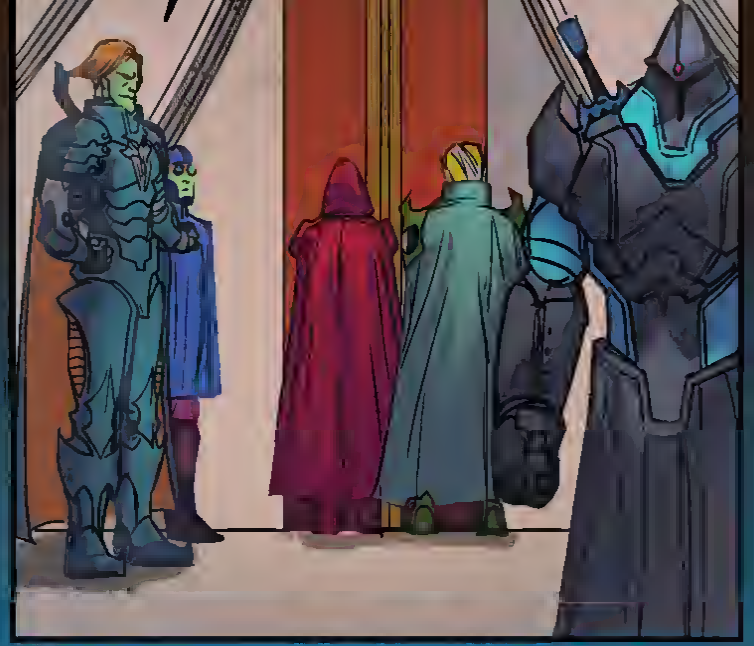


I HOPE YOU HAVE A GOOD STORY TO TELL THE QUEEN. SHE DOESN'T LIKE TO SEE HER SERVANTS EMPTY HANDED.

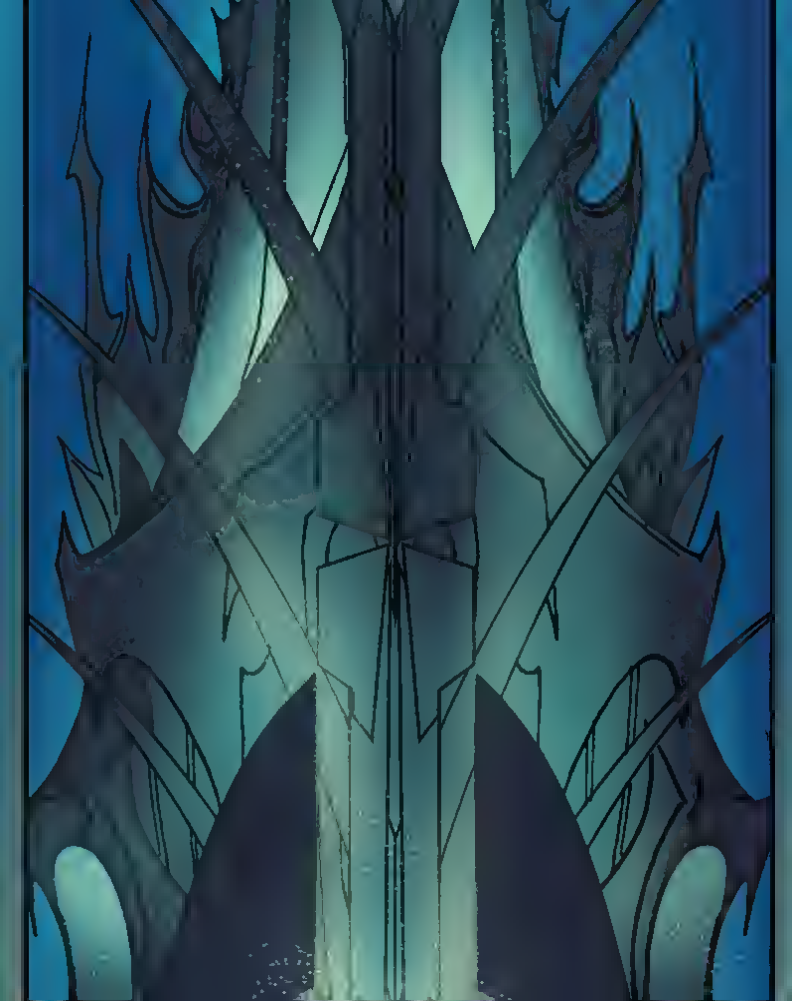
THE PALACE OF KARTANITH IS THE OLDEST STRUCTURE ON MIRROR. IT WAS BUILT BY THE FIRST DRACONUS FROM THE BONES OF OUR ORIGINAL ANCESTORS WHO BATTLED THE DARK MAGIC CREATURES BEFORE THERE WAS LIGHT. BEFORE THERE WAS LIFE. AT LEAST THAT'S THE STORY NANNIES TELL CURIOUS CHILDREN TO GIVE THEM FUEL FOR THEIR DREAMS AND NIGHTMARES.

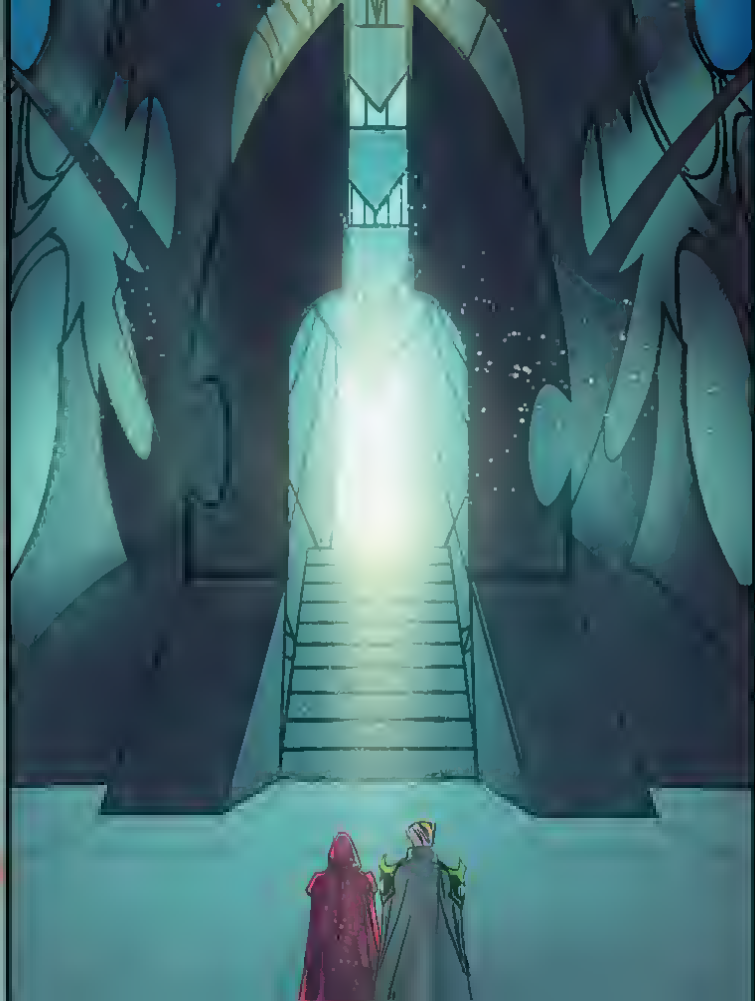


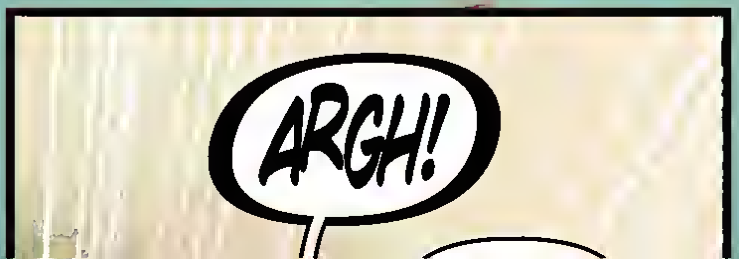

GOOD LUCK, KIDDIES.



THE THRONE IS BUILT FROM THE SKULLS OF THE ANCIENT DRACONUS. I CAN STILL SEE THE GHOST OF MY FATHER ON THAT THRONE






ARGH!

ARE YOU ALRIGHT, BROTHER?
MY HEAD...BURNS... I FEEL HER... PRESENCE.

A DRACONUS WITH A MORE POWERFUL PRIMAL FORM CAN USE THEIR MIND TO PROJECT EMOTIONS INTO OTHER DRACONUS. AN ALPHA LETTING UNDERLINGS KNOW THEIR PLACE IN THE PACK. IT'S OLD MAGIC. MOST ARE AFRAID TO USE IT...

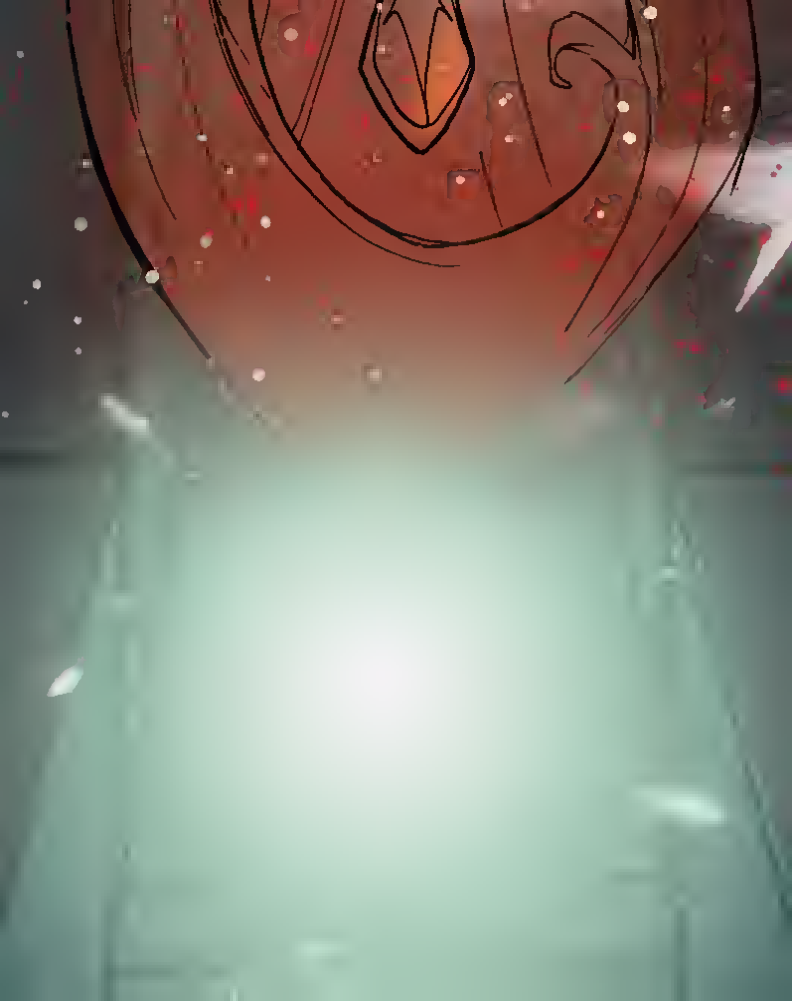
...BUT SHE IS NOT.

WHAT IS IT?

CALM YOURSELF SISTER. IT'S AN ILLUSION.

MY QUEEN?

DEAREST KOLIN. SON OF THE BETRAYE
LADY MARTI
HALF-CHILD.



I
HATE TO BE
DISAPPOINTED.

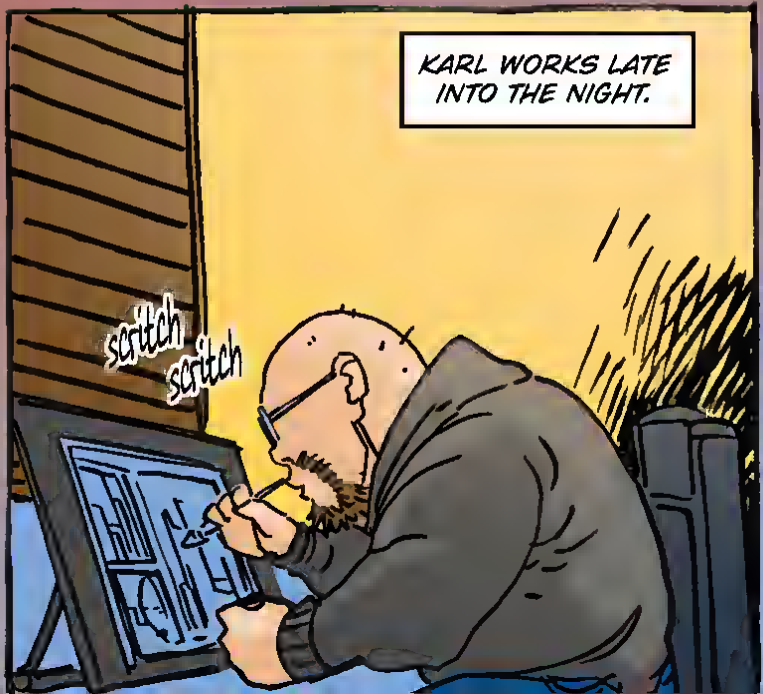
Coming Next Week:

# The Queen and I

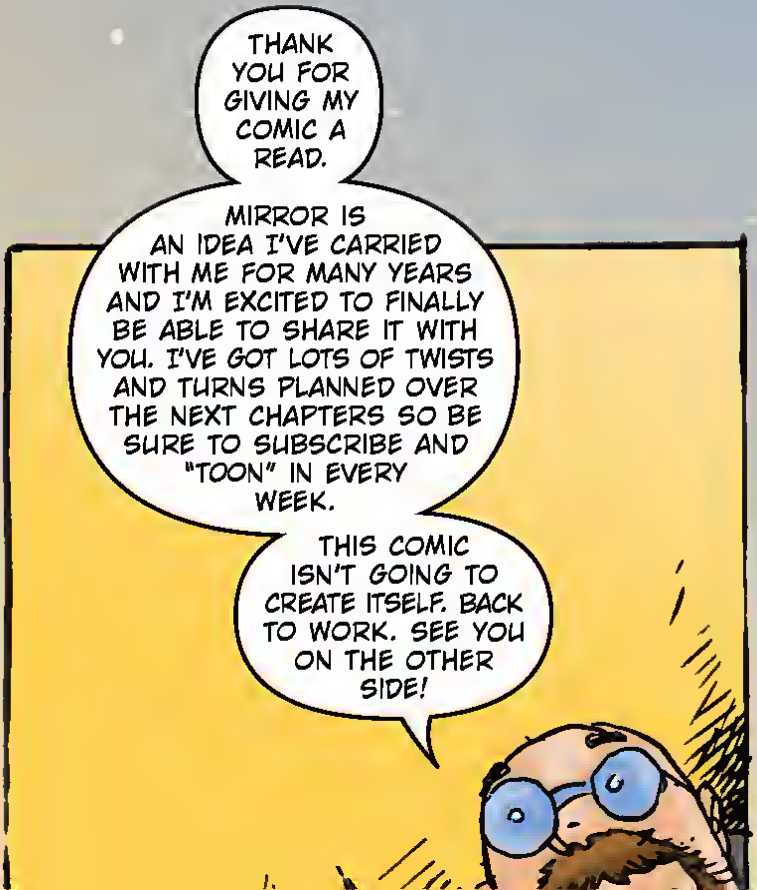
or

# Heroes or Outlaws

# MEANWHILE.
## AT LIZARD BRAIN STUDIO.



OH, HELLO. GLAD YOU COULD JOIN ME. I'M WORKING HARD ON THE NEXT EPISODE OF MIRROR.


THANK YOU FOR GIVING MY COMIC A READ.
MIRROR IS AN IDEA I'VE CARRIED WITH ME FOR MANY YEARS AND I'M EXCITED TO FINALLY BE ABLE TO SHARE IT WITH YOU. I'VE GOT LOTS OF TWISTS AND TURNS PLANNED OVER THE NEXT CHAPTERS SO BE SURE TO SUBSCRIBE AND "TOON" IN EVERY WEEK.
THIS COMIC ISN'T GOING TO CREATE ITSELF. BACK TO WORK. SEE YOU ON THE OTHER SIDE!